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*Former CIA Official Denies
Involvement With Contras*

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Theodore Shackley, a former associate deputy director of the CIA, denied yesterday that he was involved with any events described in a federal civil lawsuit brought Thursday in Florida by two American journalists against 30 persons they claimed were linked to Nicaragua's rebels.

"I have nothing to do with that whole caper," said Shackley, who was named as one of 30 defendants in the \$23.8 million suit, which alleged rebels conspired to murder, smuggle drugs and guns, and violate the U.S. neutrality act.

Shackley, who is president of a Washington-area risk analysis firm, said he has never met or heard of the two reporters, Tony Avirgan and Martha Honey, who brought the suit.

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